

 **NOTICE**

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs
4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737-1232 • Voice (301) 743-7799 • Web: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

**USDA SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED CONTINGENCY PLAN REQUIREMENT
FOR ANIMALS REGULATED UNDER THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT**

October 23, 2008

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is proposing to amend the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations to add requirements for contingency planning and training of personnel by research facilities and by dealers, exhibitors, intermediate handlers and carriers. We are proposing these requirements because we believe all licensees and registrants should develop a contingency plan for all animals regulated under the AWA in an effort to better prepare for potential disasters. This action would heighten the awareness of licensees and registrants regarding their responsibilities and help ensure a timely and appropriate response should an emergency or disaster occur.

Notice of this proposed rule is published in the Oct. 23 *Federal Register*.

Consideration will be given to comments received on or before Dec. 22. You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2006-0159> to submit or view comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically.
- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Please send two copies of your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2006-0159, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS-2006-0159.

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Note to Reporters: Public notices and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS news release page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and click on the "Newsroom" button. For additional information about this topic contact Melissa O'Dell at (301) 734-5222 or by e-mail at melissa.l.o'dell@aphis.usda.gov.